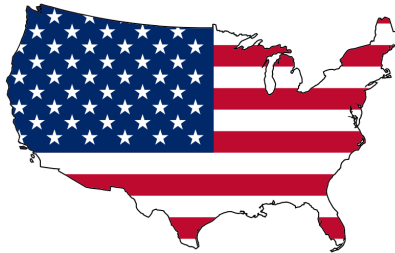


United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



Global articles for your interest
Issue 18
November 1 - November 30, 2009

Contents:

1. President Obama on the Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan

The 30,000 additional troops that I'm announcing tonight will deploy in the first part of 2010 -- the fastest possible pace -- so that they can target the insurgency and secure key population centers...

2. Helsinki Treaty Spurred Fall of Berlin Wall, End of Communism

The countries of the former Eastern Bloc can now hope to resolve political and economic challenges democratically, thanks in part to the Helsinki Process, which not only led to the fall of communism, but enshrined the principle of human rights as a diplomatic tool of engagement. ...

3. Obama Urges America's Students to Fulfill Responsibilities

Drawing from his own life experiences, President Obama, in a nationally televised address, urges America's schoolchildren to take responsibility for their own education and take advantage of the opportunities that an education offers. ...

4. Muslim Americans Prepare for Hajj

An estimated 10,000 to 12,000 American Muslims will participate in the Hajj in 2009. The number of Americans making the trip is down from previous years, according to tour operators who offer travel packages for the Hajj as well as Umrah trips to the sacred cities of Mecca and Medina. ...

5. Veterans Day Honors Those Who Served in US Military

The November 11 holiday created to pay tribute to U.S. veterans of World War I was expanded into the annual Veterans Day, honoring all those who have served in the U.S. military. ...

6. Thanksgiving Day a Time for Reflection, Gratitude, Sharing

Thanksgiving Day in the United States, the fourth Thursday in November, is possibly the premier U.S. family celebration — typically marked with a substantial feast. Many Americans also take time to prepare and serve meals to the needy at churches, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. ...

In case you missed it:

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook](#) page



U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Youtube channel](#) 



Ambassador Reeker swears-in the new PC group. (LP)

[Ambassador Reeker Swears-In the Fourteenth Group of Peace Corps Volunteers on Thanksgiving Day](#)

November 26, 2009

On Thanksgiving Day, U.S. Ambassador Philip T. Reeker joined Peace Corps Country Director Stephen Kutzy, Education Minister Nikola Todorov and other friends of the United States for a swearing-in ceremony of the fourteenth group of Peace Corps volunteers in the Republic of Macedonia. After giving their oath, the thirty-seven new volunteers officially began their two-year service assignments which will place them in communities throughout Macedonia.

- ◇ **To read Ambassador Reeker's remarks at the swearing-in ceremony, please [click here](#).**
- ◇ **To see more photos from the event, please [click here](#).**



Ambassador Reeker and Economy Minister Fatmir Besimi speak to the press after their meeting. (LP)

[Working to Improve the Business and Investment Climate in Macedonia](#)

November 24, 2009

Ambassador Reeker met with Economy Minister Fatmir Besimi to discuss their recent trips to help improve the business and investment climate and to raise awareness of opportunities in Macedonia. Last week Minister Besimi met with several high level officials in Washington, including at the Departments of State, Commerce, and the National Security Council to discuss recent initiatives in Macedonia. Ambassador Reeker attended the Business Council for International Understanding's conference on entrepreneurship and innovation where he discussed the importance of fostering entrepreneurship to achieve economic progress for Macedonia.

- ◇ **To see Ambassador Reeker's comments to the media after the meeting, please [click here](#).**



Amb. [Philip T. Reeker](#)

Ambassador Reeker Sits Down with New Albanian Language Weekly Arena

November 23, 2009

In their first issue, Arena spoke with Ambassador Reeker about a wide range of topics in a visit to the Embassy. To see his thoughts on the Ohrid Framework Agreement, bilingual education and other topics, please [click here](#).



Amb. [Philip T. Reeker](#)

Promoting Entrepreneurship in Macedonia

Op-Ed Piece by U.S. Ambassador Philip T. Reeker

November 21, 2009

Ambassador Reeker wrote a column for Koha and Dnevnik describing US efforts to promote entrepreneurship in Macedonia and how this can positively impact the economy. To see the text of his column, please [click here](#).



Jordanian participants try out the climbing wall at Hollywood Elementary School in Maryland.

The Fulbright Program competition for academic year 2010-2011 is now open

- 2010-2011 Application for the Fulbright Scholar program (post-doctoral) in the United States (NON-DEGREE). ...[more](#).

Deadline: December 15, 2009.



Ambassador Reeker addresses the large crowd attending the Gala Reception. (LP)

[Alumni Energized by Gala Reception in Embassy Atrium](#)

November 18, 2009

In cooperation with the Macedonian-American Alumni Association, the Embassy welcomed several hundred Alumni of U.S. exchange and study programs to a large reception in the Embassy Atrium. Ambassador Reeker praised their accomplishments and contributions to Macedonia, indicating that the exchanges represent America's most important investment in the future of Macedonia – in its people and its leaders. Ambassador Reeker noted that State Department exchange programs have included a remarkable cross-section of Macedonia's rich and diverse society and affirmed that, "of the one billion dollars we have spent in assistance since Macedonia declared independence, I am certain that nothing has had more long-term impact than our training, education and exchange programs."

Minister of Education Nikola Todorov joined the Ambassador in giving opening remarks and the Ambassador pointedly thanked the Macedonian Government for their decision to begin an annual \$100,000 contribution to the Fulbright Student Program, thus doubling the number of Fulbright students from Macedonia studying in the United States. Participants included Alumni from Fulbright and Humphrey Fellows, Ron Brown and Ben Franklin Fellows, long-term Military, Judiciary and Police programs, the Junior Faculty Development Program, USAID programs as well as those who have travelled on International Visitor Programs.

- ◇ To read Ambassador Reeker's remarks, please [click here](#).
- ◇ To see more photos from the event, please [click here](#).

For All Embassy News go to: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>

Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

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